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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

JOHN CHU CHEN

CASE NO.: AD6917 USNA

APPLICATION NO.: 10/669,957

GROUP ART UNIT: 3711

FILED: SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

EXAMINER: R. GORDON

FOR: GOLF BALLS WITH SOFT, RESILIENT
BIMODAL IONOMERIC COVERS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement to Groups I (Claims 1-12) and Group II (Claims 13-22), Applicant elects the claims of Group I, with traverse.

Traverse

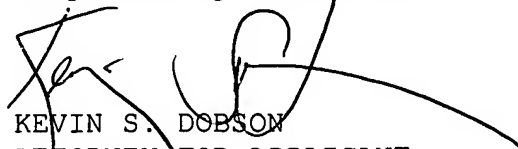
The restriction of the Claims to two groups is based upon the Examiners conclusion that the one-piece ball and the cover are not usable together. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the restriction on the grounds that the one-piece ball is a special case of the cover claim, wherein the "cover" of the one-piece ball (that is, the outer surface of the ball) is continuous with the inner portion of the ball and are of the same composition.

A cover of a golf ball is no more than the outer surface of the ball. The cover has a function in the ball which, in part, is (1) to be struck by the golf club and absorb the brunt of the impact, (2) to be inscribed or imprinted upon, (3) to be dimpled or patterned in a manner so as to affect the flight of the ball, and (4) to provide a aesthetic appearance. Owing to the fact that the cover of the one-piece ball does not have a discrete composition from the inner ball (and perhaps to the fact that it is a "one-piece" ball), the tendency may be to overlook the function of the surface of the one-piece ball. However, the fact is that the one piece ball does indeed have

an outer surface which performs the same function as the cover of a two-piece ball or other multi-layer ball having a discrete cover layer.

The Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the restriction based on the above arguments.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 23, 2004



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